

Chicago Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Newsletter

February, 2020



Chicago Chapter Officers:

- Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary: Mark Mueller
- Vice Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Historian: Glenn T. Granat
- Service Officers: Mark Mueller and Glenn T. Granat

Upcoming Events:

- **9 February, 2020:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at Rock Bottom in Warrenville, IL, 14:00-16:00 (note venue change from previous publication)
- **8 March, 2020:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery in Warrenville, IL. 14:00-16:00.
- **5 April, 2020:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Ram Restaurant in Rosemont IL, 14:00-16:00. Moved up one week to avoid a conflict with the Easter Holiday.
- **25 April, 2020:** Chapter 37 Special Forces Association annual Military Ball at the Fountain Blue in Des Plaines, IL. 17:30-close.
- **3 May, 2020:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Prairie Bluff Country Club in Lockport, IL. Moved back one week to avoid a conflict with Mother's Day.
- **13 June, 2020:** Second annual Airborne Fishing day at Tampier Lake in Orland Park, IL, hosted by Chicago Chapter Vice-Chairman Glenn T. Granat. 08:00-14:00.
- Please check the Chapter Web Site at www.chicagoairborne.com for the complete calendar of events and meetings.

In addition to Chapter and Association updates, there is a monthly history report, static display of very cool Airborne item and quarterly Airborne trivia event. There is also plenty of social time to meet and connect with other Airborne Troopers!

Important AIRBORNE days in February

- February 13th, 1942: 82nd Division becomes Division Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division.
- February 14th, 1942: 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment Formed.
- February 14th, 1968: Golden Brigade Deploys to Vietnam.
- February 1st, 1945: Operation Topside in Corregidor, (Combat Jump).
- February 22nd, 1967: Operation Junction City, Katum South Vietnam. (173rd Airborne Combat Jump).
- February 23rd, 1945 Los Banos Prison Camp Raid, Philippines.
- February 24th, 1942: 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment formed.
- February 24th, 1991: Operation Desert Storm (Ground) begins.
- February 25th, 1943: 11TH Airborne Division Formed.
- February 28th, 1991: Desert Storm ends.

AIRBORNE History: February, 2020

Colonel Martha Raye



It was well recognized that Martha Raye endured less comfort and more danger than any other Vietnam entertainer. Unfortunately, none of her TV were not taped. The following is from an Army Aviator who takes a trip down memory lane: "It was just before Thanksgiving '67 and we were ferrying dead and wounded from a large GRF west of Pleiku. We had run out of body bags by noon, so the Hook (CH-47 CHINOOK) was rough in the back. All of a sudden, we heard a 'take-charge' woman's voice in the rear. There was the singer and actress, Martha Raye, with a Special Forces beret and jungle fatigues, with subdued markings, helping the wounded into the Chinook, and carrying the dead aboard.

'Maggie' had been visiting her Special Forces 'heroes' out 'west'. We took off, short of fuel, and headed to the USAF hospital pad at Pleiku. As we all started unloading our sad pax's, a USAF Captain said to Martha.... "Ms Ray, with all these dead and wounded to process, there would not be time for your show!" To all of our surprise, she pulled on her right collar and said "Captain, see this eagle? I am a full 'Bird' in the US Army Reserve, and on this is a 'Caduceus' which means I am a Nurse, with a surgical specialty, now take me to your wounded!" He said, "Yes ma'am follow me." Several times at the Army Field Hospital in Pleiku, she would 'cover' a surgical shift, giving a nurse a well-deserved break.

Martha is the only woman buried in the Special Forces Cemetery at Ft. Bragg, NC.

